

January 29, 2003

Akin Appointed as Chairman of Small Business Subcommittee

WASHINGTON, D.C.- In a move that will enable him to be a strong advocate for Missouri's economic growth, Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO) has been appointed Chairman of the Small Business Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment and Government Programs.

"I'm grateful to be serving in a leadership role in promoting the economic growth of small business throughout our state and our entire country," Akin said following his appointment. "Nearly 1.2 million Missourians are employed by small businesses, and I'm looking forward to serving them and all American small business owners and employees in this exciting new role."

The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over all Small Business Administration programs, the promotion of economic growth of small businesses as well as investigative authority over problems small businesses face.

Akin noted that President Bush, in his State of the Union Address, said that America "needs more small businesses to open, more companies to invest and expand, more employers to put up the sign that says 'help wanted'."

"The President made clear that small business growth is a priority for his Administration, and I will join actively with him in advancing a pro-small business agenda for the American economy," Akin said. "Small business is one of the key growth engines of our economy, and smaller firms are where jobs are created for millions of men and women.

"In my role as Chairman, I plan to focus on making the Small Business Administration more effective, on reducing the regulatory red tape that entangles all types of small businesses and serving as an advocate for small business concerns and needs. This is a tremendous opportunity and privilege, and I'm ready to get started," Akin concluded.